

May 17, 2002

To: Each Supervisor

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**NOVEMBER 14, 2002 LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA  
TERRORISM/WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) EXERCISE**

I want to inform you of our 2002 disaster exercise program and ask you to support this effort by setting aside the date of November 14 so that we may invite your participation in events that will be scheduled in conjunction with our Operational Area (OA) exercise.

The tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup> affected us all deeply and validated our need to prepare for the possibility of future terrorist attacks. In order to better prepare, the Emergency Management Council approved a Year 2002 exercise program that is based on a terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is coordinating this effort which includes a May orientation/tabletop exercise for County Emergency Operations Center staff, a July orientation/tabletop exercise for city Emergency Services Coordinators, and a countywide functional exercise for all OA entities, i.e., cities, special districts, private and community-based agencies, and County departments, on November 14 (see attachment 1 for schedule). The purpose of the May and July orientation/tabletop exercises is to make emergency management personnel more aware of various types of terrorist acts and introduce the scenario (attachment 2) in preparation for the November 14 countywide functional exercise.

The design process is complicated and time-consuming for an exercise of this scope; consequently, some details are still being developed. In the near future I will send you information about a press briefing that is planned in conjunction with the November 14 countywide exercise, and I'll inform you of additional scheduled events once staff is further along in the design process.

If you have questions, your staff may contact Constance Perett, OEM Administrator, at (323) 980-2261, or Ian Whyte, Exercise Design Team Leader, at (323) 980-2253.

DEJ:CP  
IW:cm

**Attachments**

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Emergency Management Council

### 2002 EXERCISE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The dates and times of the Tabletop and Functional exercises are as follows:

<b>MAY ORIENTATION &amp; TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR CEOC STAFF (8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON)</b>	<b>JULY ORIENTATION &amp; TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR CITIES (8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON)</b>	<b>NOVEMBER FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE (For entire Operational Area) (8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.)</b>
Tuesday, May 21	Tuesday, July 11	Thursday, November 14
Thursday, May 23	Tuesday, July 16	Tuesday, November 19
Wednesday, May 29	Tuesday, July 30	Thursday, November 21

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for coordinating the 2002 exercise program. If you have questions, please contact OEM at (323) 980-2253.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### **2002 Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Exercise** **Scenario Summary**

The scenario calls for large explosions in four separate locations throughout Los Angeles County within a one-hour period during morning rush hour. Four Large Vehicle Bombs (LVB's), each weighing between 400-600 pounds, are the triggers for these explosions. The damage caused by each blast will be equivalent to that caused by the explosion that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

The explosions target such sites as: a large conference center where a high profile elected official was speaking, a hospital, a large manufacturing plant, and a major motion picture studio.

This sudden series of explosions causes many deaths and injuries, and raises security concerns throughout the County. There is significant fear that there will be more attacks in the immediate future.

While responding to the one of the initial attacks, it is discovered that one of the bombs was a Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD), or "dirty bomb", and a significant amount of radioactive material has been released near the bombsite. Further tests find that this is an extremely dangerous form of radioactive material and the wind is carrying it over residential areas, endangering the public. Large-scale evacuations are necessary.

The impact of these explosions and the RDD are immense, the number of dead and injured are in the thousands. Security concerns are high, and the public is unsure of their future. Many response, coordination, and policy issues are being raised by these attacks.